Amendment

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 13-24 with the following paragraph.

Transgenic *E. coli* strains that express a chromosomally encoded PHA polymerase from *N. salmonicolor* were constructed. The PHB polymerase gene from *N. salmonicolor* was isolated and a fusion of this gene was generated with the translational sequences of the PHA polymerase gene from *Z. ramigera*, which includes the N-terminal 10 residues of the *Pseudomonas* enzyme. A promoterless chloramphenicol transferase gene was then placed behind the hybrid *phbC* gene to make a *phbC-cat* fusion. This fusion was randomly inserted into the *E. coli* chromosome using the pLOF or pUT system (Herrero ~~et al.~~ *et al.*, *J.Bacteriol.*, 1990; 172(11):6557-6567) and clones expressing the fusion were selected on chloramphenicol-containing growth medium. Expression of the fusion was consequently increased by selecting derivatives that are resistant to higher chloramphenicol levels.